

HELP ?

Rand McNally's Dynamic Trip-Taking Duo

PC World Online; San Francisco; Aug 18, 1998; Angela Navarrete, PC World;

Start Page: 1

Subject Terms: Software

Travel

Product Names: Rand McNally Tripmaker Deluxe 1999 Rand McNally StreetFinder Deluxe 1999

Companies: Rand McNally & Co

Abstract:

Rand McNally's TripMaker Deluxe 1999 and StreetFinder Deluxe 1999 are reviewed.

Full Text:

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Whether you're headed across town for a business appointment or across the country on a family vacation, Rand McNally's got you covered. With TripMaker Deluxe 1999 and StreetFinder Deluxe 1999--the latest editions of its blockbuster travel planning and mapping programs, each priced at \$50--you'll never need a cheap gas station map again. I tried preproduction versions of both.

Like its predecessors, the new TripMaker uses a wonderfully simple interface to help you plan and map your journey. You identify your destination, the places you'd like to stop along the way, the type of road you prefer, and so on. TripMaker generates an itinerary and a map, then analyzes your trip with a new routing wizard called RoadSense. This automatically steers you around potential trouble spots such as busy metropolitan areas or construction sites (you can update the latter information at any time via downloads from Rand McNally's Web site).

In my tests, the software mapped capably and its tools were easy to use, with just one gotcha: Because its routes are based on the driving hours you specify--from, say, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.--your driving day might end in the middle of nowhere. Don't forget a tent! Or better yet, figure out where you want to stop each night and instruct the software accordingly.

While TripMaker is designed to help you plan entire vacations or long-haul business trips, StreetFinder focuses on navigating within cities. Its Trip Organizer feature finds hotels, appointment addresses, and restaurants; it can also track such business trip details as contacts, itineraries, and expenses. But if you want address-to-address driving directions, StreetFinder must retrieve them from the Web.

For the complete story, see the upcoming October issue of PC World magazine.

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A Planning Method Combining Rule-Bases and Optimization

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CLIPPEDIMAGE= JP408106492A
PAT-NO: JP408106492A
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 08106492 A
TITLE: TRIP PLANNING SUPPORT DEVICE

PUBN-DATE: April 23, 1996

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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KAWAMURA, TAKUMI
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ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	COUNTRY
HITACHI LTD	N/A

APPL-NO: JP06243590

APPL-DATE: October 7, 1994

INT-CL_(IPC): G06F017/60

ABSTRACT:

PURPOSE: To determine the usable day and time of facilities or a recommended day and time for leaving by matching the day and time of an arrival at a destination based upon a road trip time with the usable day and time of the trip facilities.

CONSTITUTION: A trip planning support processing part 2 inputs information regarding roads and guide information on the facilities from an information providing system 4 and stores them in a data base 3, and also inputs the latest information from the information providing system 4 at need and updates the data stored in the data base 3. The trip planning support processing part 2 when requested to support trip planning from an input/output device 6 together with information on a leaving point, a leaving expected date and time, and target trip facilities retrieves the data base 3 to calculate the date and time of an arrival at the target facilities and inquires the utilization state of

the target facilities from an external facility reservation system 5. After the processing ends, the trip planning support processing part 2 informs the input/ output device of the leaving recommended date and time, the arrival date and time, the utilization state of the facilities, etc.

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CLIPPEDIMAGE= JP409212563A
PAT-NO: JP409212563A
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 09212563 A
TITLE: TRIP PLAN GENERATING DEVICE

PUBN-DATE: August 15, 1997

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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KANEMITSU, HIROYUKI

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	COUNTRY
TOYOTA MOTOR CORP	N/A

APPL-NO: JP08016241

APPL-DATE: January 31, 1996

INT-CL_(IPC): G06F019/00; G06F017/60 ; G01C021/00

ABSTRACT:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To make use of facilities at optimum time with ease by storing visit recommendation times by the purposes of visits to the facilities, and retrieving the visit recommendation time corresponding to the purpose of a visit and generating a trip plan.

SOLUTION: A tourist inputs information on facilities that he or she likes to visit through an input part 18. At this time, the trip days, a starting point, a return point, etc., are also inputted. Then the purpose of the visit to the inputted facilities is inputted. A retrieval part included in a plan generation part 12 retrieves the visit recommendation time corresponding to the purpose of the visit to the facilities from a data base 14. After the visit recommendation time is retrieved, the plan generation part 12 acquires basic stay hours by the facilities which are held in a storage part 20. Then the plan generation part 12 calculates an optimum movement route on the basis of the inputted starting point, visit facilities, and return point.

At this time,
the needed time is calculated from distance information, traffic
history
information, etc., from the data base 14 to specify the start tie
and return
time.

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	U	D	Document ID	Issue Date	Pages	Title	Current OR	Current XRef	Retrieval Classif
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	US 6202051 B1	20010313	28	Facilitating internet commerce through internetworked auctions	705/27	705/26 ; 705/37	
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	US 6119095 A	20000912	16	System for planning and revising an itinerary based on intended travel time and expected consumption time	705/5		
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	US 6119094 A	20000912	8	Automated system for identifying alternate low-cost travel arrangements	705/5	705/6 ; 707/1 ; 707/10	
4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	US 6021398 A	20000201	40	Computer implemented methods and apparatus for auctions	705/37	705/26 ; 707/104 ;	
5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	US 6018715 A	20000125	8	Automated travel planning system	705/5		
6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	US 6009403 A	19991228	23	Travel plan preparing device	705/6	340/990 ; 340/995 ; 701/201 ; 701/202	705/6
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13	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	US 5790426 A	19980804	29	Automated collaborative filtering system	702/179	705/10 ; 705/27 ; 705/6	705/6
14	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	US 5331546 A	19940719	31	Trip planner optimizing travel itinerary selection conforming to individualized travel policies	705/6		705/6

CLIPPEDIMAGE= JP409212563A

PAT-NO: JP409212563A

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PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To make use of facilities at optimum time with ease by storing visit recommendation times by the purposes of visits to the facilities, and retrieving the visit recommendation time corresponding to the purpose of a visit and generating a trip plan.

SOLUTION: A tourist inputs information on facilities that he or she likes to visit through an input part 18. At this time, the trip days, a starting point, a return point, etc., are also inputted. Then the purpose of the visit to the inputted facilities is inputted. A retrieval part included in a plan generation part 12 retrieves the visit recommendation time corresponding to the purpose of the visit to the facilities from a data base 14. After the visit recommendation time is retrieved, the plan generation part 12 acquires basic stay hours by the facilities which are held in a storage part 20. Then the plan generation part 12 calculates an optimum movement route on the basis of the inputted starting point, visit facilities, and return point.

aspect an itinerary preparing system for preparing a travel plan based on input information, comprising:

an input means for entering travel plan information which includes an intended travel time taken from start to end of a trip;

an acquiring means for obtaining an expected consumption time of the trip in accordance with the travel plan information;

an excess/shortage determining means for comparing the intended travel time with the expected consumption time of the trip to determine an excess or shortage of the expected consumption time relative to the intended travel time; and

a plan changing means for revising the itinerary, when the excess/shortage determining means finds an excess or shortage, by changing at least one of the intended travel time and the expected consumption time so that the excess or shortage can be offset.

Note that the travel plan information refers to such information as time and position information, and other associated information required for preparing the itinerary. Also note that the intended travel time from start to end of the trip represents a certain time period in the itinerary. For example, if the trip starts from and ends at home, the intended travel time equals time taken after starting from home till returning back home. In a case where the trip starts at home and ends at a given place or vice versa, the intended travel time equals time taken to travel between home and the given place. That is, the intended travel time represents the total time to complete the trip, while the expected consumption time of the trip represents time estimated to be consumed by transportation, staying at visiting places, and so on.

intermediate locations and destinations). As such, it is difficult to know the timewise relationship between individual pieces of information in the itinerary, and it is difficult for a user to understand an entire overview of an itinerary. For instance, if an itinerary includes only one visiting place and the system assures the possibility of reaching the place, a situation may arise where one cannot complete the trip within the user-intended total time due to a traveler's overstay at the visiting place. In other cases, where the itinerary includes a plurality of visiting places together with time restrictions such as a specific arrival time or length of stay at each visiting place, and therefore the flexibility of the itinerary is decreased, it may not be possible to incorporate all visiting places within the user-intended total time of the trip, or it is likely that the same time slot may be specified as the arrival time at multiple places. Consequently, the itinerary becomes imperfect. When this occurs, the itinerary needs to be revised. However, a problem is that one cannot easily determine what part of the itinerary should be revised. As such, itinerary preparation becomes complicated.

Worse, it is likely that adjustment of the itinerary is incorrect and the visiting place where one wants to visit most may be adjusted inappropriately or inadvertently deleted. As a result, preparation of the itinerary becomes even further complicated and time-consuming.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is made to solve the above problems, and aims to provide an itinerary preparing system capable of preparing a complete travel plan which efficiently incorporates desired visiting places.

In order to achieve the above object, the present invention provides in one

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